



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



ZIKA PROGRAM COLOMBIA

UPDATED MAY 2018

In February 2016, the World Health Organization declared that clusters of Zika-associated microcephaly and other neurological disorders detected in Brazil constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. USAID is responding to the Zika virus epidemic and its devastating effects in at-risk countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Program implementation began in June 2016 and is expected to end by September 2019.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By investing in Zika prevention, control and innovation USAID is helping strengthen Colombia's capacity to respond to the current epidemic and future disease threats.

USAID's focus is to protect individuals, particularly pregnant women, from Zika by:

- Controlling mosquitoes that spread the virus;
- Increasing awareness of how the virus is transmitted and how to prevent infection;
- Supporting health services for potentially affected women and children; and
- Working with USG counterparts to support disease detection and surveillance.

INNOVATIONS

Two awardees of the Combating Zika and Future Threats Grand Challenge are testing and taking to scale innovations in Colombia. In Medellin and Cali, Monash University is introducing mosquitoes infected with Wolbachia, a naturally-occurring bacteria that prevents female mosquitoes from transmitting diseases like Zika. In Cali, and in Cucuta beginning in August 2018, Premise data is enhancing local disease and vector surveillance by piloting its citizen-led, mobile-based data and analytics platform to measure real-time environmental risk factors for Zika. Additionally, with funding from USAID, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is supporting studies contributing to knowledge about Zika transmission, Zika Congenital Syndrome, and how Zika is related to Guillain-Barré and other neurological syndromes.

VECTOR MANAGEMENT

USAID is partnering with the Pan American Health Organization to support the Ministry of Health in adapting regional guidelines for integrated vector management. Additionally, with funding from USAID, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing Colombia enhanced entomological surveillance tools and training.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND SERVICE DELIVERY INTERVENTIONS

UNICEF is developing strategies and updating guidelines for the care and support of Zika-affected babies and their families, and USAID-funded CDC activities have strengthened epidemiological surveillance and public health emergency response capacities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

USAID is leveraging community partners and leadership to disseminate key Zika information and battle *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes through low-cost interventions in homes and community clean-up campaigns. Implemented by Save the Children and the Colombian Red Cross, the Community Action against Zika (CAZ) project works to reduce Zika risks among the most vulnerable through community-based prevention strategies aimed at increasing the adoption of preventive behaviors and enhancing community capacity to respond to the outbreak. Additionally, the Asociacion Probienestar de la Familia Colombiana (PROFAMILIA) is working to reach and engage Colombian communities affected by conflict with preventive Zika information and resources.

For more information please contact Jaime Chang (jachang@usaid.gov) at USAID/Peru or Christina Chappell (cchappell@usaid.gov) at USAID/Washington.